

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add the Claims, as follows:

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14. A method for a first supplier to coordinate supply chain activities, the method comprising:
receiving information regarding at least one direct supplier and at least one indirect supplier;
using the information as data inputs for data processing to assist in the coordination of supply chain activities; and
providing value for the benefit of the at least one direct supplier and the at least one indirect supplier in consideration of the participation of each benefited supplier in a supply chain financing program.

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15. The method as in Claim *13* further comprising:
assisting at least one benefited supplier to obtain favorable financing terms from a lender.

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16. The method as in Claim *14* further comprising:
providing information to a lender about at least one assisted supplier for the lender's use in making decisions.

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17. A method for a lender to lend to a borrower, the borrower being a participant in a supply chain, the method comprising:
receiving first information regarding the creditworthiness of a supplier in the supply chain from a borrower;
receiving second information regarding the creditworthiness of the borrower from at least one participant, other than the borrower, in the supply chain;
receiving third information regarding the borrower's exchange of specified data with at least one participant, other than the borrower, in the supply chain; and
using at least the received first information, the received second information, and the received third information to make lending decisions.

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~~18~~. The method as in Claim ~~17~~ further comprising :

aggregating debt from a plurality of participants in the supply chain

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~~19~~. The method as in Claim ~~18~~ further comprising:

supporting issuance of asset-backed securities with the aggregated debt.

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~~20~~. The method as in Claim ~~18~~ further comprising:

receiving a loan guarantee from at least one supplier regarding repayment of the aggregated debt.

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~~21~~. The method as in Claim ~~18~~ further comprising:

receiving a credit enhancement from at least one supplier regarding repayment of the aggregated debt.

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~~22~~. The method as in Claim ~~19~~ further comprising:

receiving a loan guarantee from at least one supplier regarding repayment of the aggregated debt.

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~~23~~. The method as in Claim ~~19~~ further comprising:

receiving a credit enhancement from at least one supplier regarding repayment of the aggregated debt.